



March 20, 2013

Ms. Bernadine Abbott Hoduski
4942 Walnut 1 South
Kansas City, MO 64112

Dear Ms. Hoduski:

Thank you and the members of CASSANDRA for your letter of March 4, 2013, regarding recommendations in the recent report by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), *Rebooting the Government Printing Office: Keeping America Informed in the Digital Age*. The report affirms that “GPO’s core mission of authenticating, preserving, and distributing Federal information remains critically important to American democracy” in the digital age while recommending measures to strengthen the agency’s business model for the future.

Among the report’s recommendations are two regarding funding to support our Federal Digital System, the means by which our core mission is increasingly carried out. Recommendation 2 urges GPO to “enhance its position and capabilities by offering an expanded set of services [content management, metadata creation, authentication, preservation, and cataloging] to executive branch agencies on a cost recovery basis.” Recommendation 4 states that “GPO and Congress should explore alternative funding models for the Federal Digital System in order to ensure a stable and sufficient funding source.” The models include “reimbursement for services, fees for end users, dedicated appropriations, and/or an automatic charge to agencies.”

I appreciate the concern you raise about charging fees for end users of GPO’s Federal Digital System (FDsys). You no doubt recall that in the mid-1990’s GPO briefly implemented public access fees as provided for by the GPO Electronic Information Enhancement Act of 1993. This initiative was abandoned after the agency concluded the effort was not only counter-productive and a poor business model but, more importantly, that it impaired public access to Government information resources. Accordingly, we have no intention of charging public users a fee to access content available through FDsys. GPO remains committed to no-fee access to FDsys for the public as part of our mission of Keeping America Informed. We appreciate your support for our position on this matter.

Concerning the Academy’s recommendation to offer an expanded set of FDsys services to executive branch agencies on a cost-recovery basis, GPO has created a shared digital platform in FDsys that can readily provide a comprehensive suite of enhanced electronic content services to Federal agencies. FDsys enables the collection and dissemination



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of electronic content from all three branches of the Federal Government and supports the Federal Digital Strategy as a shared platform. Content is submitted directly into FDsys, permanently available in electronic format, authenticated and versioned, and publicly accessible for full-text searching and downloading. GPO is leveraging the capabilities of this shared platform by offering services to Federal entities on a cost recovery basis. These services include ingest of agency content into FDsys (including preservation, authentication, and public search and display); content organization; and metadata, granule, access file, bulk data, and API creation. Some of these services have already been used by the National Archives and Records Administration with the public release of the JFK assassination audio files and the Nixon grand jury testimony. We are currently examining alternatives to expand the provision of these services to executive branch agencies. Additionally, we will develop a funding model for the next five years as part of strategic capital planning to request stable funding for ongoing development and support of FDsys.

Thank you and the members of CASSANDRA again for your letter and your continuing commitment to the principle of no-fee, permanent public access to Government information via FDsys and the Federal Depository Library Program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Davita Vance-Cooks'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Davita' being the most prominent part.

DAVITA VANCE-COOKS
Acting Public Printer

cc: The Honorable Gregg Harper
Chairman
Joint Committee on Printing

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Chairman
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

The Honorable Pat Roberts
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Rules and Administration

The Honorable Candice Miller
Chairwoman
House Committee on House Administration



The Honorable Robert Brady
Ranking Member
House Committee on House Administration

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
Chairwoman
Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable John Hoeven
Ranking Member
Senate Legislative Branch Appropriations Subcommittee

The Honorable Rodney Alexander
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Legislative Branch Appropriations